Chinese retained for a time and even strengthened their influence in the valleys of the Oxus and the Jaxartes.

Kao Tsung, moreover, did what there had been much talk of doing during his father's reign, and renewed the sacrifices of *feng* and *shan,* which had been inaugurated by Han Wu Ti. *Feng,* it will be recalled, was a sacrifice to Heaven made from Tai Shan. The revival seems to have been, in part, to show the glory of the imperial house and to secure for it something of the prestige and divine assistance that were supposed to have accrued to the Han. The ceremonies certainly involved elaborate preparation and great expense. Kao Tsung was a devout Buddhist and under him were erected many monasteries. He built, too, a famous palace at Ch'angan.

Kao Tsung was not the warrior that his father had been and disasters eventually overtook him. The Tibetans, now become more powerful, wrested from the Chinese some of the most important cities in the Tarim basin, it became impossible for the Chinese to intervene in Transoxiana, Turks in Hi and Mongolia took advantage of the situation to throw off the Chinese yoke, and most of Korea, so recently subdued, again slipped out of Chinese hands. It was during Kao Tsung's reign that, strengthened by an alliance with the T'ang, the Korean kingdom of Silla (or Shilla, Sin-ra—Japanese Shiragi) in Southern Korea conquered and united the peninsula—the first time that such a feat had been accomplished.

WU HOU

Kao Tsung, moreover, fell largely under the control of an able and ambitious woman, most frequently known to posterity as Wu Hou, or, at times, as Wu Tse T'ien. She had been one of

T'ai Tsung's concubines and on that monarch's death had retired to a Buddhist nunnery. Kao Tsung's Empress recalled her from seclusion to win the Emperor's affections from a concubine of whom the Empress was jealous. Wu Hou not only succeeded in displacing this concubine but supplanted the Empress herself and had her killed. She achieved such an ascendancy over Kao Tsung that during the later years of his life she was virtually the ruler. On his death, she quickly disposed of his successor when the latter showed too great independence and placed another puppet